

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT L 00339 021343Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 NEA-09 /083 W

----- 002254

R 021222Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5169

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 0339

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, MP

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT OF END OF DEFENSE
AGREEMENT AND SCHEDULE FOR CLOSING OF HMS MAURITIUS

REF: PORT LOUIS 325

1. MAURITIAN PRESS REACTION TO VISIT OF UK DEFENSE SECRETARY
MASON'S VISIT CENTERED ON REEMPLOYMENT OF MAURITIAN-BASED
PERSONNEL AFTER THE CLOSING OF HMS MAURITIUS IN MARCH 1976.
THE TERMINATION OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AT THE SAME TIME AND
MASON'S COMMENTS REGARDING DIEGO GARCIE.

2. MASON IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SEVERANCE PAY FOR THE 600
MAURITIAN WORKERS AT THE BASE "WOULD BE ADEQUATE AND PERHAPS
EVEN GENEROUS". GAETEN DUVAL, LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE UNION OF
BASE EMPLOYEES, REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT BRITISH PASSPORTS BE
IMMEDIATELY ISSUED TO THOSE WORKERS WHO WISHED TO IMMIGRATE TO
UK TO FIND EMPLOYMENT. MASON SAID HE WOULD REFER THE QUESTION
TO THE HOME OFFICE IN LONDON.

3. PRESS SPECULATES THAT IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT GOME WILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT L 00339 021343Z

SEARCH FOR A DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH ANOTHER POWER.

AMBASSADOR KURANA TOLD INTERVIEWER THAT "INDIA DOES NOT USUALLY CONCLUDE DEFENSE TREATIES" AND QUAI D'ORSAY SPOKESMAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR MERLLIE ARE QUOTED AS DENYING REUTERS REPORT OF POSSIBILITY OF A FRANCO-MAURITIAN DEFENSE TREATY "AT THIS TIME".

4. MOST PAPERS CARRIED MASON'S STATEMENT UPON ARRIVING THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A MILITARY BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA. HE SAID THAT US HAS ASKED TO AUGMENT ITS AUSTERE FACILITIES AT DIEGO FOR BETTER COMMUNICATIONS PURPOSES BUT HAS NEVER CONTEMPLATED A MILITARY BASE. DIEGO WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE B-52 BOMBERS, HE SAID, AND WOULD NOT SERVE AS A BASE FOR "MAJOR AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS". MASON'S ENDORSEMENT, IN THE NAME OF "HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT", OF PRIME MINISTER GOUGH WHITLAM'S CALL FOR REDUCTION OF ALL NAVAL ACTIVITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS WIDELY REPORTED.
HEATLEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTL00339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750154-0871
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750586/aaaadauc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT LOUIS 325
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT OF END OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND SCHEDULE FOR CLOSING OF HMS MAURITIUS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006